

REMARKS

Claims 2-8 are newly presented claims and are directed to aspects of the invention best illustrated in Figs. 12 and 13.

Claims 9-17 are newly presented claims that clarify selected claims from the parent application (Application No. 09/779,329) which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,669,660.

Newly presented claim 9 simply clarifies allowed claim 43 in the issued patent by replacing the term "external rotation" with "abduction" in the final paragraph of the claim.

Newly presented claim 10 simply clarifies allowed claim 42 in the issued patent by replacing the term "spacing wedge" with "inflatable member" in the fourth paragraph of the claim.

Newly presented claim 11 simply clarifies allowed claim 4 in the issued patent by replacing the term "flexible strap" in the fourth paragraph with "retention member."

Newly presented claim 12 clarifies claim 7 in the issued patent by removing the term "when in both above-referenced position, yet while in said first position" term. Dependent claims 13-15 are taken directly from the issued patent.

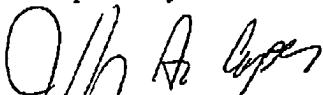
New presented claim 16 is based on claim 11 in the issued patent. This new claim includes all the limitations from dependent Claim 11 in the original patent, but has been clarified so that it does not include the limitation of the inflatable member "attached to said second end of said strap" as stated in independent Claim 7 from which Claim 11 depends.

CONCLUSION

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper.

However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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